

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 27, 2001 LB 287

subsidy before others who have much lower income, for example. And that's one of the things I wanted to explore with this...with this particular bill. With...with Medicaid, for example, I think there is an income test, although I don't remember exactly what it is. I think there is also an asset test, if I'm remembering correctly. So one question I would have of you is, first of all, is that...is that not true, that Medicaid has both types of tests? And in your bill you have an income test, which is 250 percent of federal poverty, and there is no asset test at all.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you...would you respond, Senator Thompson?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Let me...let me...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Excuse me.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...maybe just ask directly the most obvious question, why is there no asset test? I mean, under your bill, theoretically, someone who is retired and has no income whatsoever may have assets of several million dollars. How...why does the bill not deal with that possibility, for example?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: This bill is patterned...or this fund is patterned after the Renal Program Fund and maybe I could back up and kind of take a number of your issues, if you don't mind, in addition to that, which has no asset test. And we followed...what I tried to do was make it as similar to other bills that we've been...that back when I was on Health and Human Services that we have passed in recent years to allow people with special disability issues, and in this case people we want to be well and not on Medicaid, be able to work. And so this bill is patterned in a similar fashion to one that passed two years ago dealing with support services for disabled persons who wanted to work. If we force everyone to go to Medicaid, and...and I told you the issues here and we've heard and...and I know that Senator Tyson...